1	2
Nanded	
Nandurbar	
Nasik	
Osmanabad	
Pandharpur	
Parbhani	
Pusad	
Rajapur	
Ratnagiri	
Rissod	
Sangamner	
Sangli	
Satara	
Shahad	
Sholapur	
Umerga •	
Wani	
Wardha	
Washim	
Yavatmal	
Nagpur (DD II)	
VLPT	
Chikaldhara	
Junnar	
Karjat	
Khed	
Transposer	
Aurangabad	
Staff to be sanctioned by competent authority	
Truncated Staff sanction available.	
Staff sanction for all other stations is available.	

[English]

National Policy for Print Media

1933. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Newspaper Society had rejected the move for proposed national policy for print media;

(b) whether the society has also opposed any change in the newsprint import policy of Government;

(c) whether the Newspaper Society has expressed disappointment at the 5% service tax on advertisement imposed in 1996-97 budget;

(d) if so, the details of the other objection made by the society; and

(e) the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The Indian Newspaper Society has submitted to the Ministry that no Media Policy is required, especially in the print media. This was in the context of preparation of a Working Paper on the National Media Policy by a Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry under the chairmanship of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(b) The Indian Newspaper Society has opposed the imposition of 10% Customs Duty on newsprint (other than glazed).

(c) and (d). The Society had represented that the service tax on advertising proposed in 1996-97 budget would have an adverse effect on economic growth and on the growth of media and furhter that it directly affects the freedom of commercial information.

(e) The Government has imposed service tax, inter-alia, on advertising services @ 5% w.e.f. 1.11.1996.

Modernisation of Purulia Railway Station

1934. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modenise Purulia Railway Station in South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Improvement works such as provision of station building (Phase I) has been completed and works of provision of concourse area, paving of platforms and provision of train indicator board have also been taken up and are expected to be completed by 1997-98.

Number of Post Offices in U.P.

1935. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices, postal assistants, postmen and letter boxes in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Allahabad District, during 1994 and 1996;

(b) the time when assessment for staff in group 'C' & 'D' was carried out in U.P.;

(c) whether the increase in postal services has not been commensurate with the increase in population in U.P. and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) During 1994, there were 2003[r] Post Offices, 11176 Postal Assistants, 4599 Postm[r] and 79337 letter boxes in the State of Uttar Prade[s]